

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of Industrial
Relations
News For Immediate Release
Contact: Debbie Herbert at
334/242-8609

For Additional Information, contact Debbie Herbert (334) 242-8609

Workforce Development Team Reorganizes Career Centers, More Than 20 to Close

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, May 26, 2005..... A team of workforce development officials will reorganize the state's Career Centers and reduce their number by more than 20, but still keep open enough so that no Alabamian will have to travel further than one county to receive service at a center.

Officials with the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education, the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, the Office of Workforce Development, and others, have been studying the operations of the Career Centers for months. A committee representative of the various Career Center partners, along with two legislative representatives, developed the reorganization plan.

The reorganization became necessary because of a long-term decrease in federal funding combined with increasing costs for state personnel to operate the Career Centers.

The officials also made clear that while 25 Career Centers are slated to be closed under the reorganization plan, 32 will remain open in rural and metropolitan areas throughout Alabama.

"The major considerations in deciding which offices to close had to do with demand for services, efficiency, and proximity to other services. We're glad that every Alabamian will still have services in their home county or in a neighboring county," says Dr. Tim Alford, director of the Office of Workforce Development. "No Alabamian will have to travel across more than one county to find to find a Career Center under this reorganization plan."

In areas where Career Centers are closed, an array of alternative services will be offered as needed. The services may include itinerant services one or more days a week, and a mobile career center.

The state has been able to handle unemployment claims by telephone for more than three years and will soon provide employment service registration by telephone and the Internet. Employers can also post notices about job openings on the Internet at www.joblink.alabama.gov and the service will soon be expanded so job seekers will be able to post their resumes and register for additional employment services.

"We will also make resource teams available to a community where there is a major employer starting or closing operations," says Phyllis Kennedy, director of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations.

The officials on the reorganization team are: Steve Shivers, commissioner of the Department of Rehabilitation Services; Dr. Roy Johnson, chancellor of the Department of Postsecondary Education;

Dr. Tim Alford, director of the Office of Workforce Development; and Phyllis Kennedy, director of the Department of Industrial Relations.

“I commend all our Career Center partners on developing our new service plan for Alabama,” says Dr. Johnson. “I think they have made a good faith effort to provide the most accessible, efficient, and effective services we can in light of diminishing federal resources.”

Career Centers provide free employment and training services for job seekers and employers in one point of contact.

Career Centers to be closed, and those to remain open, are listed below:

Offices to close:	Offices to remain open:	
Alex City	Alabaster	
Andalusia	Albertville	
Arab	Anniston	
Athens	Bay Minette	
Butler	Birmingham	
Centre	Blountsville (ES only)	
Clanton	Brewton	
Fayette	Cullman	
Greensboro	Decatur	
Haleyville	Demopolis	
Homewood	Dothan	
Lanett	Enterprise	
Madison Re-employment Center	Eufaula	
Monroeville	Foley	
Oneonta	Ft. Payne	
Opp	Gadsden	
Ozark	Greenville	
Pell City	Hamilton	
Phenix City	Huntsville	
Prattville	Jackson	
Russellville	Jasper	
Scottsboro	Luverne (CareerLink only)	
Sylacauga	Mobile	Sheffield
Tuskegee	Montgomery	Talladega
Vernon	Opelika	Troy
	Roanoke	Trussville
	Selma	Tuscaloosa

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